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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

A REPORT ON THE PREVENTION OF THE POLLUTION OF STREAMS BY PULP FACTORIES IN GERMANY.

By Consul W. Washington Brunswick, Chemnitz, Germany.

Although the factories manufacturing wood pulp are located along the principal streams in Germany, yet the rivers have been practically free from pollution, owing to the strict regulations and thorough control which prevent any waste from being emptied into the rivers.

Manufacturers are required to use every precaution possible to prevent the waste reaching the streams. The water which is to be emptied into the river must leave the factory in an uninjurious and clean condition, free from any remnants from the manufacturing process. This is accomplished by passing the discharge through one or more settling ponds and, if necessary, through filters. The streams are controlled by the authorities, and any justified claim against the quality of the waters, due to pollution from the factories, is at once investigated and the condition corrected.

There are no regulations setting forth the exact method which a manufacturer must employ to prevent the pollution of the streams, as each manufacturer may carry out his own ideas upon the subject, so long as his method successfully prevents the pollution of the streams. Settling ponds are invariably used and the results are satisfactory.

The service which inspects the disposition of the waste material of factories is under the immediate jurisdiction of the county authorities and has charge of the licensing of factories.

A REPORT ON SCHOOL PHYSICIANS IN GERMANY.

By Consul George Nicholas Ifft, Nuremberg, Germany.

Medical inspection and supervision of schools is perhaps more thorough in Germany than in any other country. The city of Nuremberg, with a population of 320,000, employs 15 school physicians, who have the medical supervision of about 42,000 school children, distributed throughout the city, in about 70 school buildings, and subdivided into about 835 classes. According to the medical report for the 1906-7 school year, each school physician had under his supervision an average of 55 classes with 2,740 pupils. These figures do not include the kindergartens and foundlings' establishments, which also come under the control of the school physicians and which for the year in question increased the total by 3,055 children.

The pay of school physicians in Nuremberg varies from \$130 to \$285 per year, averaging about \$190. The average annual expenditure of the city for this purpose is thus about \$2,850. The pay is regulated by the number of classes inspected, \$7.14 being allowed for each infant class inspected and \$24.38 for higher classes. A school physician who has in his district 9 infant classes and 61 other classes, which is about the average, would thus receive a total of \$209.44 for his services during the year.

The duties of school physicians in Nuremberg are set forth in great detail in the order of the council providing therefor. They must visit all the school buildings in their districts three times each year, at approximately stated periods, and investigate all matters of heating, lighting, and ventilation, cleanliness, arrangements of gymnasiums, baths, and toilets, and the seating arrangements with reference to the size of the pupils, and make report in regard to the same.

In addition to these general inspections, all children entering school must be individually examined three times during the first year. The first examination must take place with the beginning of the school year and be completed by the end of September. This examination is for the purpose of establishing that they are fit for school, and can do the work without injury either to their mental or physical well-being. The second of these examinations is made between the new year and Easter. This calls for a thorough physical examination, each child being required to strip. In each such examination the parents of the child are invited to be present at the examination. The third examination is made during the summer term and must be completed before the beginning of the summer holidays, and the eyes and ears are the especial points upon which it is made. Through these examinations defective children are properly placed with reference to the remedying of such defects and to their general well-being and development, some being denied admission, set back for a year, excused from certain work, either mental or physical, or allowed to continue conditionally under the immediate eye of the physician.

Aside from these regular examinations, the school physician must respond to every call for examination in regard to suspected contagious disease, oversee disinfection, and certify the return to school of any child that has been out of school by reason of contagious disease. Every case of contagious disease must be fully reported. In addition to these duties, the school physicians must conduct such examinations and make such reports as may be directed by the council in the interests of scientific and educational questions, to arrive at the development of the child physically or mentally, with especial regard to the outlining of courses of study or gymnastic exercises.

Statistics in regard to the activities of the school physicians in 77 Prussian cities of more than 25,000 population have recently been compiled. In practically all cases the physicians are named for certain city districts or particular schools and their activities in such respect are incidental to their general practice. Only in the city of Dortmund is there a chief school physician, whose whole time is devoted to such duties, and under whose direction are all the various district school physicians. In other cities the school physicians are under the direction of one or other of the physicians charged with the

care of some special municipal department. In still other cities there are no special school physicians, but the examinations of school children for eye, ear, nose, and throat diseases are made from time to time by physicians especially designated for that purpose. In two cities, Erfurt and Nordhausen, there are school dentists, and in one, Charlottenburg, there is a school physician for orthopedic gymnastics.

From the number of school physicians for each of the several cities and the number of children assigned to each of the physicians, it is apparent that no general average has yet been worked out for school physicians in Germany. In Berlin, for instance, each of the 44 school physicians had under his supervision an average of 7 schools with 5,150 pupils, distributed in 138 classes; in Hanover there were 19 school physicians, with an average of 4 schools and 1,440 pupils in 27 classes, for each; in Charlottenburg, 15 physicians with an average of 2 schools and 1,430 pupils in 27 classes, each; in Barmen, 2 physicians with 25 schools and 11,880 pupils in 218 classes, each; in Rixdorf, one physician with 23 schools and 22,934 pupils in 398 classes. There is just as great variation in the pay of the school physicians, their salaries ranging from \$500 to \$22.50 per year.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

PELLAGRA.

Report from Beaufort, S. C.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hay reports, September 30:

I have been informed by Doctor Guffin, a practicing physician of Beaufort, S. C., that he has had 8 cases of pellagra, all of which proved fatal.

Report from Georgetown, S. C.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Moorer reports, September 25:

During the past 5 years there have been 6 cases of pellagra under my observation at the Georgetown Infirmary. Four of these cases came from the county chain gang. I mistook my first case for Addison's disease, but noticed instead of pigmentation in mouth and fauces a raw and bleeding surface. Then the bronzed skin peeled, leaving raw surfaces. The bronzing of the skin appeared on the dorsal surfaces of arms and back, and especially the neck. There were intense intestinal and trophic disturbances, and anorexia and lassitude connected with all the cases. Only one became so deranged mentally as to require treatment at the insane asylum. The majority of the cases were in persons of negro race between the ages of 20 and 40 years.

The treatment employed in these cases was: Strychnine, arsenic, and the tincture of the chloride of iron in large and increasing dosage, and a strict dietary of from 2 to 3 quarts of milk, with from 8 to 10 raw eggs a day. Five of the cases have completely recovered. The fate of the sixth case, which was sent to the state asylum for the insane, is unknown to me.